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News

CD release date: September 28, 2010

OBOIST ALEX KLEIN IN VIVALDI CONCERTOS

Top-Tier Instrumentalist on Mid-Price CD From Cedille FOUNDation Label

Alex Klein, the greatly admired former principal oboist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performs eight surprisingly diverse and virtuosic concertos by Antonio Vivaldi on a mid-priced CD reissue of an album originally released by the Musical Heritage Society.

Reissued on the Cedille FOUNDation label September 28, 2010, *Vivaldi Oboe Concertos* pairs Klein with the New Brandenburg Collegium conducted by American conductor, composer, and keyboard artist Anthony Newman (Cedille FOUNDation CDR 7003, \$11.99 suggested retail price).

Vivaldi Oboe Concertos was first issued in 1995, the same year Klein joined the Chicago Symphony as principal oboe at the invitation of maestro Daniel Barenboim. Klein went on to win a Grammy Award in 2002 for his recording of Richard Straus's Oboe Concerto with the CSO. He resigned from the orchestra in 2004 after developing a neurological condition in his left hand.

Vivaldi's oboe concertos "are in a class all their own," Klein writes in the CD liner notes. They "exhibit technical demands that would not be seen again in the oboe repertory for another 100 years" and still challenge "even the best performers of our down day," he writes.

In the CD booklet, Klein explains that Vivaldi wrote these difficult concertos for his students at a Venetian home for orphaned girls — young musicians whose names are lost to history — and he invites listeners to share his wonder at the level of musicianship they must have attained to perform these works.

Alex Klein

The New York Times has called Alex Klein “one of the most brilliant oboists of his generation.”

In the course his career, the Brazilian-born musician has shared the stage as soloist with Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman and collaborated with conductors Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, and Sir Georg Solti.

Klein is active today as an orchestral and chamber music soloist. He serves as artistic director and conductor for international music festivals and regularly participates in the Aspen and Santa Fe Music Festivals in the U.S. and the Alex Klein Oboe Festival in China, among others.

When Klein performed as guest soloist with Apollo’s Fire, Cleveland’s Baroque orchestra, in March 2009, the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*’s music critic wrote, “Hearing Klein play ... with such penetrating expressivity ... was an exhilarating experience... [Klein achieved] magnificence [in Vivaldi’s Concerto in D minor] applying ornaments with subtle grace and savoring the music’s sweetness and zest.”

Cedille Records

Celebrating its 20th anniversary season 2009–2010, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) is dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area.

The audiophile-minded label recently introduced CD-quality album downloads in the “lossless” FLAC format, available directly via its Web site, <http://www.cedillerecords.org>.

Cedille albums are also available as physical CDs and extra-high-quality MP3 file downloads.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille is the label of The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation. For a free catalog and the locations of local retail outlets, contact Cedille Records, 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; e-mail: info@cedillerecords.org.

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Vivaldi Oboe Concertos
(Cedille FOUNDation CDR 7003)

Concerto for Oboe and Strings in A Minor, F. VII, No. 13 (9:30)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in D Major, F. VII, No. 10 (7:23)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings C Major, F. VII, No. 6 (14:00)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in A Minor, F. VII, No. 5 (9:04)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in F Major, F. VII, No. 12 (8:34)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in D Minor, F. VII, No. 1 (7:59)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in C Major, F. VII, No. 11 (10:07)
Concerto for Oboe and Strings in F Major, F. VII, No. 2 (7:48)

Alex Klein, oboe
New Brandenburg Collegium,
Anthony Newman, conductor